



gray fox

Urocyon cinereoargenteus

Kingdom: Animalia
Division/Phylum: Chordata - vertebrates
Class: Mammalia
Order: Carnivora
Family: Canidae

Features

The gray fox is 35 to 44 inches long, including a tail that is 11 to 16 inches long. It weighs six to 12 pounds. The back is gray with a salt-and-pepper look. The back part of its ears, belly, top of feet, sides, and the underside of the tail are a light red color. There is a white stripe underneath the body from the throat to tail. The tail has a black line down the middle and a black tip. The chin, lips, and nose are black. The ears stand straight up and are very noticeable.

Natural History

The gray fox lives in wooded areas. This animal is an omnivore that eats fruits, birds, corn, insects, nuts, mice, rabbits, and roots. It is a very good tree climber and may use a tree for a resting place. Mating occurs from January through March. Young are born in April and May after a gestation period of about two months. Litter size averages about four. Young are on their own after about four months.

Habitats

bottomland forests

Iowa Status

common; native

Iowa Range

statewide

Bibliography

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.
Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats CD-ROM.